(c) if so, the security scenario in Afghanistan;

(d) whether the neighbouring country hostile to India and which has an influence over Talibans is secretly targeting Indians through Talibans; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide adequate security to Indian workers in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes. An Indian engineer Shri K. Suryanarayan, working in Afghanistan for a private company was kidnapped and killed by the Taliban on 29th April, 2006.

(b) to (e) All foreign nationals, including Indian nationals, face security threats in Afghanistan. Government of India maintains regular interaction with the Government of Afghanistan and the international security forces operating in Afghanistan to share information on security threats to Indian nationals in Afghanistan. Indians engaged in Government of India aided projects are provided security by the Governments of Afghanistan and India and those with international agencies, private companies and the Government of Afghanistan are provided security by their respective employers. Despite elaborate security measures, foreign nationals, including Indian nationals, have occasionally lost their lives on account of the activities of anti-government elements, including the Taliban, in Afghanistan. There are reports in the local media as well as other circles that the Taliban receive support from across the border.

Bilateral Relation with China

†3515. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China had bilateral talks, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discused; and

(c) the progress of the talks in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Seventh Round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question was held in New Delhi and Kumarakom from March 11 to 13, 2006, during which the two Special Representatives continued their discussions for an agreed framework for the resolution of the India-China boundary question in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.

Also, the Seventh Session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology Economic Group (JEG) was held on March 16, 2006 at the level of the Commerce Ministers of the two countries. During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on issues in bilateral trade and economic cooperation between India and China, as also closer cooperation between the two countries in international fora.

(c) The two Special Representatives are engaged in discussions to explore an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the "Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question", signed on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Such an agreed framework will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. Both India and China have expressed their conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective. No time-frame has, however, been fixed for the settlement of the boundary question.

During the JEG meeting, the two sides decided to expeditiously implement the decisions and framework of trade and economic engagement outlined in the Joint Declaration of June, 2003 and the Joint Statement of April, 2005 signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries. The meeting also formally adopted the report of the Joint Study Group (JSG) set up to examine the potential complementarities between India and China in expanded trade and economic cooperation, which was presented to the two Prime Ministers during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in April, 2005. The JEG took a number of follow up decisions to enable expeditious and time-bound implementation of the recommendations of the JSG with a view to ensure rapid expansion and

diversification of bilateral trade and deepening of economic relations between India and China.

Meeting of Joint Boundary Working Group of India and Bangladesh

3516. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY :
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of meetings of Joint Boundary Working Group between India and Bangladesh that have taken place so far to resolve issues pertaining to 1974 Land Boundary Agreement; and

(b) whether the issue of exchange of enclaves featured in these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) The Joint Boundary Working Groups between India and Bangladesh have met twice so far to resolve issues pertaining to 1974 Land Boundary Agreement. The first meeting was held in Dhaka from July 2—4, 2001 and the second meeting took place in New Delhi from March 26-27, 2003. These two meetings covered boundary related issues including demarcation of about 6.5 kilometres of undemarcated border, exchange of enclaves as well as adversely possessed territories.

Missing RAW officers

3517. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of RAW who are still missing at present;

(b) since when these officers are missing;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the officers of the rank of Joint Secretary who mysteriously disappeared about two years back was spotted in U.K. and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether that officer had been brought back from that country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?